

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th April 1904.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

URITA PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April publishes a cartoon in which a bear is represented as being furiously attacked by a host of bees, evidently Japs, for molesting their

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

A cartoon.
hive. The letter-press is a poem, of which the last words are, "It is not all honey that one finds here."

2. Referring to the fighting in Tibet, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April says that, notwithstanding the attempt that is being made to shift the responsibility of the

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 2nd, 1904.

The Tibet war.
war on the Tibetans, all right-thinking persons will clearly perceive that the Tibetans had no wish to fight. If Colonel Younghusband had not surrounded and tried to capture them, there would have been no fighting at all. It was perceived long ago that the fate of Tibet was sealed. The Viceroy is going to England, but the war will continue, and the Indians cannot but think of the heavy charges that it will occasion and the consequences to which it will lead.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 12th March has the following:—

PRATINIDHI,
March 12th, 1904.

The Corbett case.
In our last issue we wrote that Mr. Corbett, the District Superintendent of Police, had assaulted the drummers in the house of Babu Dakshina Charan Datta on the occasion of the *Dolejatra* festival. We now hear that Mr. Corbett had nothing to do with the incident, and we are sorry for having mentioned his name in this connexion. But the details of the story are all correct, and nothing was exaggerated. Babu Dakshina Charan and those present at the time of the occurrence believed that it was Mr. Corbett who had committed the assault; but this impression was removed by their conversation on the subject with the clerk of the Police Office. Captain Lindsay, the Civil Surgeon, has admitted that he committed the assault. While we are extremely sorry for having mentioned the name of Mr. Corbett, we are surprised to learn that Captain Lindsay should have behaved in that way. He has been here only for a short time, and we fail to understand why a gentleman like him should so far forget himself at the sound of drums.

4. The same paper publishes a petition addressed to the Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria, in the Tippera district, in which it is prayed that five panchayets should be appointed for the Kalikachha village. This will help to keep the thieves and *budmashes* in check and also facilitate the realisation of the *chaukidari*-tax. It is desirable that, in making the selection of men for the appointments, old and respectable inhabitants of the village should be consulted.

PRATINIDHI

5. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April writes:—

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1904.

The *chaukidari*-tax.
From time to time we receive complaints from many places in Bengal regarding the *chaukidari*-tax. Even a poor man who lives by begging or who has nothing to live upon has to pay the tax, although it is difficult to see what property such a man can possess which is worth guarding by a *chaukidar*. It is the law of the land that even such men should, quarter by quarter, regularly pay the tax; that even a helpless woman, who somehow keeps body and soul together by labouring day and night in husking paddy or by selling cow-dung cakes, and whose sole garment is a dirty rag torn and knotted up in a hundred places, should not be exempt from the tax. The tax must also be regularly paid. In case of default, every movable property, no matter how insignificant, which a man possesses, is liable to sale by the collecting panchayet. The people have repeatedly cried to the rulers to save them from the tax and to introduce afresh the old system of paying *chaukidars* by *chakran* land. But alas! their cries have been in vain, and there seems little prospect of the tax being abolished. Its abolition had been eagerly hoped for after the Delhi Darbar. But the hope was not fulfilled. A tax once imposed, has seldom been known to

be removed. Besides, as there is a distinct policy involved in making village chaukidars, like the regular police, servants of the Government, the control is not likely to be slackened. The authorities, however, seem to be in favour of a mitigation of the rigour of the tax. In the annual report for 1902-1903, the Government say:—"It is the duty of Magistrates to limit the number of chaukidars to strict requirements." Again:—"It is also even more important that the incidence of the tax should be fair; and that the poor, when not exempted altogether, should be taxed as lightly as possible." All this reads well on paper, but the question is whether the directions of the Government will be followed in practice. The three tangible effects of the chaidari-tax have been—(1) aggravation of the misery of the poor; (2) conversion of chaukidars into Government servants and the abolition of all direct connection between villagers and chaukidars; and (3) a recrudescence of theft and dacoity in the province.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1904.

6. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 3rd April says that the dafadar of the Rudrakar village, under the Palang thana in the Faridpur district, is altogether neglectful of his duties and never attends to any thing save his salary. The panchayet also does no other duty save collecting the chaidari-tax.

JASOHAR,
March 23rd, 1904.

7. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 23rd March complains of the prevalence of *gunda* oppression in Maswim-nagar in the Jessore district. The *gundas* commit oppression on women even in day-time, and commit highway robbery and extortion. Some respectable men belong to the party of the *gundas*.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

8. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April writes that Shaikh Samsoddin, the Police Sub-Inspector of the Pursura thana in the Hooghly district, denies that cases of theft have occurred in his thana. He wants to know from the editor of the paper where those thefts, of which mention was made in it, occurred. Will the Sub-Inspector deny that there were thefts by house-breaking in the houses of Narayan Chandra Sadhukhan, Srinibas Saha, and Ramcharan Bhattacharyya, of Serampore, and that a case of theft also occurred in the house of Bholanath Adak, of Fatehpur?

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

9. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April says that four cases of murder have recently occurred near Harirampur thana, in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district, but the police has not been able to trace even one of them. The other day one Tarini Gop, of the Kandi village, was murdered while going to his shop at Lechranganj at night.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
March 23rd, 1904.

10. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 23rd March says that a certain Deputy Magistrate of Barisal refuses to acknowledge *khanapuri parchas* as evidence in cases under section 103. One day he spoke to a mukhtear of *parchas* as a "Backergunge evidence," as a "nonsense evidence," etc. On the other hand, Mr. Beatson Bell, the District Magistrate, has announced in the mufassal that no one should encroach upon the lands marked out in another's *parcha*. The Deputy Magistrate's conduct will encourage riots in the mufassal.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
March 25th, 1904.

11. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 25th March says that Babu Bepin Bihari Banerji, the Deputy Magistrate of Rangpur, has, in the case *Basanta Kumar Bakshi versus Miajan Nasya* and others, sentenced one Sikar Dalal to 15 days' imprisonment without allowing him an opportunity of cross-examining the prosecution witnesses or proving an *alibi*, for which he prayed.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
March 28th, 1904.

12. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 28th March says that appeals preferred against the sentences passed by the two Deputy Magistrates of Madaripur in the Faridpur district seldom fail, and cases committed

by them to the Sessions seldom succeed. The Deputy Magistrates also often come in for rebuke at the hands of the District Judge for their ineptitude. Seeing the result of their cases at the Sessions, these Deputy Magistrates have of late become very shy of committing cases to the Sessions, and very often acquit accused persons.

The District Magistrate ought to make an enquiry into the way criminal justice is now being administered in Madaripur.

There is no need for the additional Munsif in Madaripur. The work there is so light that the Munsifs leave Court generally at 2 P.M.

13. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April says that a Bengali Deputy Magistrate in charge of a subdivision of the Noakhali district behaves very badly towards pleaders, mukhtears, parties, and his own *amla*. He calls his *amla* such names as *budmash*, *dacoit*, etc., and cuts insolent jokes with mukhtears. In December last he told them that he would not sell them stamps for their *sanads*. He does the treasury work very perfunctorily.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

14. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 3rd April says that a notice has appeared in the paper *Santi*, of Madaripur, in which Mukhtear Jadu Nath Pal, of Palang, demands from Babu Chandicharan Chaudhuri, the Sub-Registrar of Palang and a member of the local Honorary Bench, Rs. 800 as damages for having maliciously insulted him and detained him in custody in open Court in such a manner as to seriously lower him in the estimation of the public and subject him to pecuniary loss.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1904.

(d)—Education.

15. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th March writes that the rules framed by Government relating to students' lodging-and boarding-houses, though rather stringent, are calculated to do much good to the students. Those who know anything about native students of the day are aware how their morals are deteriorating. Still it must be said that rules so hard and fast are not yet wanted. These rules will prevent poor boys from prosecuting their studies in Calcutta and in other towns by increasing their educational expenses.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 30th, 1904.

16. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 1st April complains that the question-papers on Persian at the last Entrance Examination were unusually difficult. The total number of marks assigned this year to the morning paper was 100, although this number ought to have been 80. This irregularity on the part of the examiner must have caused serious confusion to the candidates. About 40 marks were assigned to translation from Persian into English in past years out of a total of 80 marks. This year there was a departure: only 28 marks out of 100 were assigned to translation from Persian into English. Such an unexpected change in the character of the questions cannot but produce disastrous results. Again, candidates were never before asked to compose letters or write essays in Persian. Candidates, whose second language is Sanskrit, are never required to answer such questions. But the examiner in Persian required the candidates to write both an essay and a letter in Persian. And the essay that the candidates were required to write was on the Delhi Darbar—a subject which even the best writers must find it difficult to write upon. The root of all this mischief is that a few selected persons appear to possess a monopoly of everything connected with the examination on Persian. The regret is that nobody appears to take any notice of all these irregularities.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 1st, 1904.

17. In continuing its review of the Educational Resolution of the Government of India, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1904.

The Government of India's
Educational Resolution.

(1) The Resolution is, to a great extent, right in its estimate of the moral effects which the existing system of English education has produced. No right-minded man can deny that in many cases that system

proves very injurious to the discipline and moral training of the boys. Government wants to attribute this evil result to the educational institutions and not to the system of education. But the writer must take leave to differ from Government on this point, and to say that it is the godless education which is now imparted that is mainly responsible for the evil. To give a boy no religious education is to train him up as if he belonged not to the higher but to the lower creation. Government should not think that it is impossible for an alien Government to impart religious instruction in its schools. Where there is a will, there is a way, and proper means could certainly be devised for imparting religious instruction, if Government had a mind to impart such instruction. The remedies for the present evil tendencies which Government has suggested are not calculated to produce much good in the absence of religious training. Such training is absolutely necessary if Government wants to remove the imperfection referred to by itself in the present system of education.

(2) Government has all along helped the spread of female education in this country, and it has hinted that in future it will render greater help to the cause. That is good. But if by female education Government means the same education as is imparted to the boys, then no good will be done by it. The poor progress made by female education since 1886-87 ought to be enough to convince Government of the uselessness of the endeavour to spread female education on existing lines. The female education that India needs is an education that will make Indian girls true Indian women. The writer is not also in favour of educating boys and girls in the same schools.

(3) Government's proposed action in regard to technical education is certainly commendable. But it has not probably quite matured its plans yet. At any rate, much good is expected to follow from its action. It is necessary, however, that in this branch of education the people should exert themselves instead of relying entirely on the Government.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 23rd, 1904.

18. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd March says that the patients in the moribund ward of the Vishnupur Charitable Dispensary are left completely uncared for at night. They suffer unspeakably and their wailings fill the night air. The attention of the Civil Surgeon, Mr. Watt, is drawn to the matter.

RANGALAY,
March 27th, 1904.

19. It is rumoured, says the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 27th March, that the rate of the municipal tax in Calcutta will be raised to 23½ per cent. It is also said that a death-duty of 5 per cent. will be levied. Will this duty be levied on the income or on the value of the entire property of the deceased house-owners?

SOLTAN,
April 1st, 1904.

20. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 1st April complains of the extremely filthy and insanitary condition of Karhea within the Calcutta Municipality. There is a large *busti* of *chamars* in Karhea. This *busti* is most filthy. A powerful and nauseating stench is constantly emitted from it. The washings of the latrines in it accumulate in the lanes or are drained into tanks. Most probably the Health Officer of the Municipality has never visited this place. As a matter of fact, the conservancy of the Municipality continues to be extremely faulty in spite of the large expenses in which it is nowadays indulging in appointing highly-paid officers, etc., from the poor rate-payers' money.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 1st 1904.

21. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April writes that there is absolutely no reason why Dr. Cook, the Health Officer of Calcutta, should have been granted an increment of Rs. 100 to the large salary of Rs. 1,400 per month which he enjoys. The fact is that the municipal funds are nowadays being squandered on all sorts of useless purposes, so that this increment to Dr. Cook's salary is quite of a piece with what may be expected under the circumstances. The Municipal Commissioners, however, have shewn their appreciation of real merit by granting an increment to Babu Ramani Mohun Chatterji, the Collector of the Calcutta Municipality.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

22. A correspondent writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th April that in the Midnapore and Balasore districts there are large tracts of uncultivated land bordering on the sea. These are mostly Government *khas* lands. If Government would lease out these lands at a small rate of rent, both Government and the lessees might profit by the arrangement. But the oppressions of the Public Works Department make it impossible to cultivate these lands. It is highly unjust on the part of the officers of that department to prosecute poor cultivators if they sometimes obstruct the passage of rain water which collects in their fields by means of small dykes or if they fish in a *khal*. Government should make satisfactory arrangements for the cultivation of these lands, and should take steps to prevent the rigorous enforcement of the law for restraining persons from obstructing water-courses.

NIHAR,
April 5th, 1904.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

23. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 31st March complains that the British India Company has only one steamer plying between Chittagong and Akyab. This causes great inconvenience to passengers. Great *zulm* is often done to the passengers by the steamer *khalasis*. The attention of the British India Company is drawn to the inconvenience of the passengers.

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1904.

24. A student correspondent of the same paper complains that there is no arrangement for drinking-water at the Chandpur station of the Assam-Bengal Railway. There was some filtered water at the station, but when the correspondent attempted to take a glassful of that water, he was prevented from so doing by the Assistant Station Master, who said that the filtered water was for the *sahebs*. It is to be hoped that arrangements for drinking-water will be made at the station.

JYOTI,

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April publishes the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

Railway complaints.
(1) Babu Satis Chandra Chaudhuri, village Bamanmurha, post-office Badu, says that on the 9th March last, the booking-clerk of the Dum-Dum junction station on the Bengal Central Railway took from him the price of nine tickets for the Baraset station, but gave him only eight tickets. It was the 6 o'clock train time.

(2) Babu Kali Kishor Mukharji says that on the 5th March last, he alighted at Chinsura from the 18-35 up train at 8-10 P.M. It was raining at that time and the wind was high. His destination was six miles from the station. There was no conveyance available. He told everything to the Assistant Station Master. The latter said that there was no waiting-room for passengers in the station, and he gave the correspondent a letter addressed to the Station Master of Chandernagore requesting the latter to give him a shelter for the night. The correspondent then came down to Chandernagore and showed the letter to the Assistant Station Master, but to no effect. The latter told him to wait on the up platform and tell the Station Master, if he should meet him, that he would go to Calcutta by the morning train. The chill pierced through his bones, and he was obliged to take shelter in a horse carriage, for which he had to pay Rs. 2.

(3) A correspondent complains that there is no waiting-room for females at the Feni station on the Assam-Bengal Railway, and that the passengers' shed in it is small and unenclosed. Feni is a subdivisional town and therefore commands a large passenger traffic. But no train waits there for more than three minutes. No such third and intermediate class return tickets as are issued at the Chittagong, Comilla, and many other stations on Saturdays, are issued at Feni.

(4) A correspondent complains of the want of a waiting-room for females at the Singjani station on the Dacca State Railway.

(5) Babu Kunjalal Adhikari, village Vaidya Belghoria, Rajshahi district, says on the 5th March last, he did not get tickets for the Basudevpur station from the Kurhigram station on the Northern Bengal State Railway, and that

the booking-clerk of the latter station took from him the excess amount of Re. 1-12 for every third-class ticket from that to the Madhavnagar station.

(6) Madan Mohan Saha, post-office Bhurungamari, Rangpur district, says that recently the flat at Saraghat on the Eastern Bengal State Railway caught fire and all the goods in it were burnt down. There were a few bundles of matches and canisters of kerosene oil on the flat. This was illegal, and yet the railway authorities have refused to pay compensation for the goods burnt down. The freight per maund of jute is annas 10-9 from the Pateswari station to Calcutta, but it is annas 7-6 from Dhubri and Gauripur to Calcutta, and annas 6-6 from Golakganj to Calcutta. The jute traffic of Pateswari will greatly increase if the freight is reduced.

(h)—General.

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 23rd, 1904.

26. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd March will be glad to see Mr. B. G. Geidt made permanent in Mr. Justice Stevens's place in the High Court. It is not every day that one meets with such an able judicial officer. May he live long.

RANGALAY,
March 27th, 1904.

27. It is rumoured, says the *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 27th March, that only the Chittagong Division will be transferred to Assam. The Chief Commissioner of Assam has, it is said, expressed his unwillingness to take in Dacca, Mymensingh, etc., lest Assam should lose its special character. Even now the *Sanjivani* troubles many a reader by publishing accounts of oppressions committed on cooly women. And if its editor is transferred to Assam, the Assam planters will find a hard time of it. On the other hand, it is said by many people that Lord Curzon has granted the prayer of the Bengalis.

SANJIVANI,
March 31st, 1904.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 31st March writes:—
The transfer question. We hear that the proposal to partition Bengal will remain in abeyance for the present, as many high officials of the Local as well as the Supreme Government were found unable to accord it their support. Government also could not ignore the unique agitation in East Bengal. The great Town Hall meeting unsettled the minds even of officials who had already taken up a determined attitude in the matter. It is reported that Lord Curzon will take the papers relating to the partition question with him to England, with a view to persuade the authorities there to give their sanction to the proposed dismemberment. If he succeeds and returns to India, he will take up the question again.

It is a memorable event in the history of India—the manliness shewn by the people of East Bengal in their agitation on the transfer question, an agitation the like of which was never before seen in the country. This agitation has not gone for nothing. Such self-sacrifice, so much exertion, could not be thrown away. Not less than a *lakh* of rupees seems to have been spent in this connexion.

The alternative proposal of including East Bengal and Assam under a separate Lieutenant-Governorship has failed to give satisfaction, as Lord Curzon has clearly indicated in his speeches that the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Board of Revenue over the new province will not continue for long.

Much as the people of East Bengal have done, there remains much more for them to do. For they have not yet accomplished their purpose.

Lord Curzon goes to England with his documents to carry on his agitation there. We, too, ought to follow him thither for the same purpose. Every one will be glad to learn that Mr. Romes Chunder Dutta and Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji are going to England with that object. Not less than a *lakh* of rupees will be necessary for carrying on the agitation in England. We hope the people of East Bengal will again begin the struggle in right earnest and contribute their mite towards furthering the cause of their mother-country.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1904.

29. The *Bunkura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st April publishes a poem on the partition question written by a girl.

30. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April gives an account of the views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the partition question and says:—

The partition question.

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1904.

People from various quarters have really embarrassed the Viceroy over the partition question. But the legal objection against partition is the one which is likely to exercise His Excellency the most. The question that the Viceroy has no power under the law to effect a partition is surely a serious one, and it will require much thought to settle it properly. Is not all this a hopeful sign? *Zid* is, of course, a different thing, but the Viceroy will never be able to partition Bengal, if he has to do it without departing from the path of justice and after meeting all the objections that have been raised against the proposed step.

31. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 27th March says that, in spite of the large surpluses which the Indian Exchequer has reaped during the last few years, Government is

The surplus.

RANGALAY,
March 27th, 1904.

determined not to pay off its debts or reduce taxes. The existence of the public debt is a serious loss to the people; and when the Sovereign is a foreigner and jealously guards the interests of his fellow-countrymen, various suspicious arise in men's minds in regard to such debts, although they may not speak them out for fear of the law.

32. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th March writes that while Government has borrowed crores of rupees and thus placed India

The Budget.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
March 30th, 1904.

under a heavy burden, it makes the worthless announcement in the course of the budget statement that India is prospering. Government's inordinate desire to make loans has alarmed the people, and it is therefore perfectly useless to criticise this prosperity budget with a view to examine whether or no the country is really progressing.

33. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 31st March writes that whenever there is a surplus balance Government spends it on purposes which are of minor importance, but pays

The Indian Budget.

SANJIVANI,
March 31st, 1904.

little attention to those matters that are of vital interest to the Indian masses. Agricultural training, the teaching of practical arts, general education, and the inauguration of sanitary measures are all neglected. The people would have thanked Government with their whole heart if out of the large surplus of four crores and upwards, one crore had been devoted to the construction of drains, to the filling up of hollows, to the clearing of jungles, and to the provision of pure drinking-water in villages; if one crore had been set apart for founding a model farm in each subdivision for the purpose of imparting agricultural training; if one crore had been allotted for the purpose of establishing an institution for the teaching of practical arts, and if one crore had been provided for the improvement of general education. The only regret is that Government is more mindful of luxury than of the lives of its Indian subjects. Here was a very good opportunity of doing a world of good to the poor, malaria-ridden people; but Government is spending the large balance in comparatively unimportant matters.

34. Referring to the Financial Statement of the Government of India, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April says:—

The Financial Statement.

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1904.

There is nothing new in the statement. It is a recapitulation of the old things.

Though the revised estimate for 1903-1904 showed an increase in consumption over that of the year preceding, it does not appear that the small reduction in the salt-tax allowed by the Government has been of any material advantage to the people. The reduction has been one of eight annas per maund. There has, therefore, been a diminution of a pice in the price of a seer and a quarter and of half a pice in the price of half that quantity. But poor people, whose earnings range between two to four annas a day, do not purchase one or even half a seer of salt at a time. So they get no benefit from the reduction of the duty. A reduction of at least one pice per seer, or ten annas per maund, would have been felt by the poor people. As the revised estimate of the salt revenue is better than the budgeted estimate by thirty-one lakhs, Government ought to see its way to granting a further reduction of

two annas per maund. Such a reduction will not injure the revenues, whilst it will greatly benefit the poor.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1904.

35. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April writes:—

Lord Curzon's Budget speech.

Lord Curzon has ridiculed those who declare that India is getting poorer every day. His Excellency plumes himself upon his prosperity budget and styles those who tried to show that the surpluses were fictitious, as insane. Yet we could not but laugh at the arguments by which he attempted to prove the prosperity of the Indian people. The fact that the people are gradually coming to deposit more money in the Savings Banks and other banks, and that they are purchasing Government promissory notes, only shows that some people have money which they now think it safe to deposit in the banks and invest in other ways: it can by no means prove that the masses are well-to-do. Moreover, the total amount thus deposited must be regarded as insignificant when compared with the vast population of India. We cannot accept the arguments as at all convincing by which His Excellency comes to the conclusion that India is gradually becoming more and more prosperous.

The income of Government has no doubt increased; but the increase in the income of the Excise Department does not reflect much credit upon Government. Though there are surpluses year after year, yet remission of taxation is never granted. This indeed is very disappointing. The surplus balance ought not to be spent in railway construction and in the excavation of canals, for which purposes the money raised by loans should be utilised. This arrangement would enable Government to grant remission of taxation. The additional grant of forty lakhs for education, and the grants for the improvement of agriculture and the arts are hardly sufficient, considering the large surplus of the last year.

If, instead of reducing the telegraph rates, Lord Curzon had reduced the salt-tax and the incidence of the land revenue, he would have done a real good to the unfortunate people of India. Instead of spending huge sums of money on such useless purposes as the Tibet expedition, the Delhi Darbar, the city improvement schemes for Calcutta and Simla, Government ought to have devoted the money to founding a larger number of scholarships for technical education, to the construction of irrigation canals and the excavation of tanks, and to like important purposes. Having made extremely inadequate grants on all these heads, Lord Curzon rends the skies with self-praise. The thought that little benefit will accrue from these poor and inadequate grants sorely disappoints us.

Of all the public measures of Lord Curzon's administration, the reduction, however small, of the salt-duty and the raising of the taxable minimum of incomes are the only ones which the people appreciate. But although Lord Curzon has done much, and promises on his return from England to do more, yet he says nothing about the separation of the judicial and executive functions. He has enumerated all his past achievements and also those which he proposes to perform, but he makes no mention whatever of the Official Secrets Act. This is quite inexplicable to us.

RANGALAY,
April 3rd, 1904.

36. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's defence of his administration.

The debate on the Budget closed on Wednesday last. Everybody spoke on that day, but the longest speech was that made by Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya and the sweetest, that made by Lord Curzon. Not only did he speak sweet words but also vindicated well his own administration. He held out the hope of his return to India in October next, but we have no such hope.

However much we may abuse Lord Curzon, we have seen very few men so able as he is. He is not only an able, well-informed, eloquent, and industrious administrator, but also possesses sentiment, poetic feeling, grace, wit, and largeness of heart. He listens to all that we say, and replies to it whenever he feels it necessary to do so. Under Lord Curzon the Indian Government is no longer the unknown and unknowable thing that it was before. It seems now to be a thing possessed of some measure of life and consciousness. It was with the object of ruling English-won and English-dominated India that Lord Curzon came out as Viceroy and, as such, he was bound to consult the

interests of the English people and, as a matter of fact, has done so. This is creditable to him rather than otherwise. In fact, there is nothing in Lord Curzon that we can with justice condemn strongly. The vituperations that we have poured, are pouring, and shall pour in future upon Lord Curzon are not applicable to Lord Curzon individually, but collectively to the English people. The English people are grossly greedy and grossly commercial in their instincts, and they are at the same time the rulers of India. Even in administrative matters the Englishman cannot free himself from his national failing, namely, calculation of pecuniary loss and pecuniary gain, and this is what makes us extremely sorry. It is not in Lord Curzon's power to apply a remedy to this disease, and it is not, therefore, right to blame him for it.

We shall now explain why we have made this long preface. In his last speech in the Viceregal Council on Wednesday last, Lord Curzon tried to impose upon us in a manner that would show that he took us for fools. Fools we are, indeed, for we have consciously assumed that character. But repeated attempts at imposition cannot fail to move our anger as well as our laughter—anger, because such attempts at imposition must diminish the loyalty of the Indian people, and laughter, because we strongly realise that what is bred in the bones will not out of the flesh, and that Lord Curzon's Parliamentary habit of imposition still sticks to him. But a membership of Parliament and the Viceroyalty of India are not services of the same kind. By his youthful frivolity Lord Curzon has impaired the dignity of the office of Viceroy.

He would have us understand that to rule over the 23 millions of Englishmen's Indian subjects they have only 6,500 European and Eurasian officers and so many as 21,500 native officers. But he has not told us of the total sum received respectively every month by these 6,500 white officers and by these 21,500 black servants, or of the nature of the services rendered respectively by the two classes of officers and the manner in which this is done. If these 6,500 European officers are all that is required for the administration of India, how is it that Government has to spend so much year after year, that the Indian people are becoming poorer every day, and that the life-blood of the people is being sucked out so remorselessly by a rigorous realisation of revenue? You Englishmen are welcome to take out of India as much money as you can. But it is your duty to see that we have two comfortable meals every day, and that we do not die like flies in a season of the slightest scarcity. It is only because we have not enough to eat that we pester you for employment, it is only because we desire to live that we come forward to serve you—that we rigorously realise revenue for you in utter disregard of our weal here and hereafter, that as policemen we convert the people into so many poor, servile, spiritless things. If any other means of livelihood had been open to us we should have done nothing of the kind, should not have solicited you for employment or abused you when you gave us none. In a great household the number of domestics and retainers is always in excess of that of the children of the house. We black men are your domestics and retainers and as such we must, of necessity, be numerically superior. If the Viceroy tries to impose upon us in this manner he must look for abuse. Under Musalman rule the village zamindar was all-in-all in his village. He is now no better than a wooden puppet. In those days it was we that did everything. We were then the traders, the artists, the army, and the officers. We had therefore enough to eat and were loyal and contented. But now we are nothing. It is our country, our village, our race, and our language, and yet we are nobody. All the higher officers from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the District Magistrate are Englishmen. We know nothing and can know nothing of the system of administration, and even if we know it, our counsels meet with no acceptance from the authorities. In the Army the highest dignity that we can aspire to is that of a Subadar-Major, in the Executive and Judicial lines the highest preferment open to us is a Deputy Collectorship or a Sub-Judgeship. Of the exceptionally fortunate few, some become Judges of the High Court and some obtain other high posts. Among those who go to England and thereby lose caste many rise to be District Magistrates and District Judges. Thus a Krishnagobinda has become a member of the Board of Revenue and a Romeschandra became a Divisional Commissioner. We, of course, thank Government for all this. But why should Lord Curzon plume himself upon these facts?

It is a great fault of Lord Curzon that he cannot wait to hear himself praised by us, but is always in a hurry to praise himself, and that without stint. We have therefore no choice but to find out the weak and disreputable points. For this we are not to blame, but he. Letting alone employment in the public service, we find little evidence of improvement, but rather much cause for apprehension of future evil in the other matters referred to by His Excellency. Under Lord Curzon the public debt has increased enormously. He has done nothing but gone on borrowing. All that the people have in their hands is currency and promissory notes, and there is a deficient circulation of ready money. Nor can it be said that the taxation has not increased. The salt-tax has been reduced and the income-tax, too, has been somewhat lowered. But has not the land-tax, on the other hand, been increased? Thanks to the renewed settlements, the raiyats are everywhere raising a wail of distress. Where there is no permanent settlement, new surveys and settlements are in progress. Where there is such a settlement, the effect of the cadastral survey and settlement operations is an enhancement of the burden upon the raiyat. Many cesses, such as the road cess, the public works cess, and the chaukidari-tax are being realised at very high rates. In the Punjab, in Bombay, in the United and the Central Provinces, as well as in Madras, the raiyat has been, as it were, hopelessly bound with innumerable fetters. There is no means of laying on a new tax. If Lord Curzon has, therefore, managed to replenish the exchequer in these two ways we cannot, in justice, do anything but blame him.

We have learnt the English language and have been anglicised to some extent. We are therefore bound to seek the welfare of the English Government. Our existence is inseparably bound up with the existence of the English Government and, in pure self-interest, we are therefore bound to seek the welfare of Englishmen. Relying upon that friendly intention, we can freely declare to Lord Curzon that, however much he may wish to whitewash the English administration in India, it has many grave and internal defects. From one end of the country to the other you will find nothing but a constant feeling of distrust, disaffection, rage and mortification in every heart. Many are not loyal or well affected towards Englishmen at heart. That a State is ruined by the fault of the Sovereign is a saying that has long been current in this country. The people, therefore, hold the Government responsible for the many evils from which they are suffering, such as plague, famine, starvation, and short rations. An anti-English feeling is constantly present in the hearts of the educated community, and even among the uneducated that feeling is gradually becoming deeper and fiercer. Lord Curzon may, in his own time, leave the country with words of vaunting and self-congratulation. But who shall say what the future has in store for it?

Such repeated words of vaunting and self-laudation in the mouths of the rulers therefore excite both our fear and our ridicule. Lord Curzon has sown the seeds of discontent in the feudatory States by bringing low the high heads of the Native Princes by his Delhi Darbar. Whether he has acted justly or rightly matters little, but the fact remains that he has acted in a most impolitic manner by interfering frequently in the administrative affairs of the feudatory States. It is so easy for a person to incur blame, but once the blame is incurred, it spreads fast, and the dissatisfaction engendered by it affects the social organism like the subtle poison of a snake. Such has been the case with the English Government. We do not know who will expel this poison, who will reassure us. Lord Curzon is not fit for this task. If a Viceroy of the type of Lord Ripon now comes, our hearts will be somewhat reassured.

It is from a sense of duty that we have spoken at such length. Mere abuse, ridicule or pleasantry will do no longer. It is certain that England will have to contend one day with Russia for the Indian Empire. The English are preparing for that conflict, but the preparations are not such as will ultimately prove beneficial. With a discontented people the most cautious measures must prove futile. Can the English Government count upon the allegiance of the Sikh and the Gurkha with the same confidence that the Moghul Government could count upon the allegiance of the Rajput? If not, the English Government has nothing upon which it can count in good or evil days. With such thoughts and with apprehensions of imminent danger

present in our minds we have spoken out freely, and we believe that we shall be listened to by Englishmen.

37. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 4th April has the following in its English columns :—

The Budget.

One pleasant feature of the Financial Statement of the present year is the large surplus which the Government of India is able to secure and to anticipate in the coming years. After so many years of famine, pestilence, and frontier wars, entailing expenditure which threatened to bring India on the verge of bankruptcy, it is a pleasant surprise to learn that not only have we steered clear of the shoal of insolvency, but that the ship of our administration is sailing more merrily and joyfully than ever. We must congratulate our Government and ourselves that such a state of things has really come to pass.

We must at the same time express our profound disappointment that in our country such startling improvement in the financial position should not have inaugurated an era of reduction of taxation, its necessary corollary in other lands. This point has been urged by the Hon'ble Dr. Mukerjee and Mr. Gokhale with all their ability and eloquence, and the Viceroy found himself compelled to give a reply. It may be summed up thus : the Government of India has inaugurated reforms in many departments of internal administration and has introduced several innovations for the good of the public, and these reforms and innovations can never be carried out effectively in all their details without the expenditure of heavy sums of money. Mention is specially made in this connection of the Co-operative Credit Societies Bill, the Government schemes of Primary, Agricultural and Technical Education, of Police Reform, of the establishment of an Agricultural Department, and some other matters. These, it is said, will eat up all or nearly all the surpluses which are so joyously anticipated. Notwithstanding the prognostications of some of our English contemporaries to the contrary, Lord Curzon assures us in his speech that he will return to India, and he goes on to tell us that he is unable to hold out any hope of remission of taxation in the extended term of his Viceroyalty, and that it may be left to be carried out, if ever, by some happy successor of his. Moreover, he has made remission enough, and you cannot expect one man to perform so many miracles. Hence, although your surplus may be something like six crores, still the pressure of taxation must remain the same.

We must say that the utterances of the Viceroy have filled us with blank despair. It will be impossible for India ever again to secure surpluses exceeding those shown in the present budget, and if the principles enunciated by our present Viceroy be adhered to by his successors, the peasantry of India may bid adieu to all hopes of reduction of taxation in the near future. On the contrary, it is likely that the financial stability of our present Government will induce our rulers to carry into execution the schemes of aggression and aggrandizement which they have been hatching for a long time. Already we have a military expedition in Tibet, called hitherto a "political mission," but which, as might naturally be expected, has now developed into a "war." Russian intrigues in Tibet, real or imaginary, have supplied the pretext for this wanton and cruel act of aggression, and if Russia really takes it into her head to help the Tibetans, woe indeed be to the Indian tax-payers. Again, Lord Curzon speaks of the proposed extension of the Nushki route through South-Eastern Persia. From our past experience of the building of "trade routes" and extension of "spheres of influence," we can safely prophesy that the conquest and annexation of Tibet will be followed by the absorption or attempted absorption of Southern Persia. Apart from the morality of the whole thing, the scheme of extending British influence in Persia is fraught with dangers of the gravest kind. For, though Russia may look on while England conquers and annexes Tibet, she is sure to resist to the utmost of her power any British attempt to annex Persia. In that case we shall be plunged into a long and bloody war, the consequence of which it is impossible to foresee. But whatever may be the political result, the financial burden of India will be immensely added to, and the Indian peasant will be saddled with taxes which he will find too heavy for his weak shoulders.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 4th, 1904.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 29th, 1904.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 29th March regrets that for some cause or other Government has now come to adopt an ungenerous policy. The days are no more when Government used to attend to the wants and aspirations of the Indians, and never regarded public opinion lightly. The ignoble policy which was followed by Lord Lytton has received a striking impetus during the administration of Lord Curzon. Although harbouring suspicion against the people of this country, no ruler ever pronounced them to be worthless. But the speeches of Lord Curzon make it clear that His Excellency entertains grave doubts as to the abilities of the Indians. He has given them no new rights or privileges, but has withdrawn from them some old privileges. The proposal to partition Bengal has convulsed the whole country. Lord Curzon has shown a decided contempt for public opinion in this matter. In his speeches in East Bengal he showed that he had no regard for the work done by Indian representatives in the Legislative Council. Our only hope lies in the termination of his career in India, which is near at hand. We are anxiously awaiting the day when, under the administration of a liberal Ministry, a generous-minded Viceroy will be sent to India.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 29th, 1904.

39. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 29th March welcomes Lord Curzon to Burdwan and observes as follows:—

The Viceroy's visit to Burdwan town.

Raise your voice in the praise of Lord Curzon and King Edward VII till it reaches His Majesty's imperial ears. It is true that the inhabitants of Ketugram, Budhu and many other thanas are suffering from famine and are consequently too weak to join the chorus. Let them remain silent. It is a festive and joyous occasion. If you speak to the representative of the Sovereign about your distress, don't you know that his heart will ache to hear the story? Hide your sorrow within yourself. It will be a scandal to the Government if it transpires that the people are in distress. Come, let us be merry. It won't do to show our naked bodies to His Excellency. The signs of malaria will be clearly visible in our frames, emaciated by famine. Cover your bodies. What harm if you have not country-made clothes? Wear English-made ones. If you have not got any of your own, beg from others. Don't come with uncovered bodies.

Mind that you are coming to show your loyalty. If you have any prayer to make, don't come. It is not the rainy season now, and you can come through the fields by different roads. It will not, therefore, do to say that there is a want of roads. You ought to be satisfied when you have paid the road-cess. You need not remember that this tax was first levied for road purposes alone. Discontented people are always unhappy, so don't be discontented. If the doors of your houses have been removed off their hinges for arrears of the chaukidari-tax, what harm? You can sleep with open doors. The police, the chaukidar, will guard your houses.

You have got the Viceroy in your midst. Don't lose this opportunity of informing him of your grievances and difficulties. He, too, will see them with his own eyes and remove them. You must not be guilty of feeling one thing and saying another.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 30th, 1904.

40. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 30th March says that most of the zamindars in the Midnapore district have been unable to realise even a small portion of the rents due to them by their tenants for the March *kist*. This clearly shows the condition of the Midnapore raiyats. Government should, therefore, notice the above fact.

The zamindars and the March *kist* in the Midnapore district.

PRATIJNA,
March 30th, 1904.

41. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 30th March says that great *zulm* is committed on the employés in the Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta. Formerly their usual hours of work were nine, and they used to get extra for extra work. But now they are worked 12 hours in the day, and that even on Sundays and other holidays without any special remuneration. If any employé happens to be absent owing to any illness or accident in his family, he is fined two days' wages.

Zulm on Kidderpore Dock employés.

42. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 31st March complains that criminal work at Chittagong is suffering simply because

Another Deputy Magistrate required for Chittagong.

there is not a sufficient number of Deputy Magistrates at that place. The officers who are now

working there have most of them their special duties, and are therefore unable to cope with the work, which has fallen into great confusion. The District Magistrate should write to Government for another Deputy Magistrate for Chittagong.

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1904.

43. Personally we have the highest respect, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta]

Mr. Bonnaud, the 2nd Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta.

of the 1st April, for Mr. Bonnaud, who has been appointed 2nd Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta.

But in justice to the vast Hindu population of the town, one of its three Presidency Magistrates ought to be a Hindu.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April writes that whether

Lord Curzon's impending departure from India.

Lord Curzon returns to India or not, it is certain that he will attempt a vindication of his Indian administration when he goes to England. He must

attempt such vindication secretly, otherwise it will be clear to everybody that the principal measures of his administration were unjust, tyrannical, and arbitrary. Now, so long as there is no injurious interference with their commerce and they are not called upon to make any pecuniary sacrifice on account of India, the English people devote very little time to Indian affairs. It is for this reason that Anglo-Indian officials are able to do whatever they like in this country and then return to England as if they had no responsibility whatever in connection with the work of administration.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

Could the Official Secrets Act be passed either in Australia or Canada? Would it be possible to incorporate Northumberland or Yorkshire with Scotland? We are British subjects merely in name but not in reality. We are fit only to pay taxes, but not to have any voice in the administration of our country. Consequently all that we say is only so much crying in the wilderness. We can well understand why it should be necessary for Lord Curzon to defend his actions. He is ambitious and, as such, he is bound to take part in party politics and must therefore defend himself from the attacks of his political opponents.

Lord Curzon may hold posts of honour in England, but it will not be easy for India to recover from the shock that she has received from his actions. But if he should return, there is no knowing what more he may do. But why should we dread exposure to the dew who are already living in the sea? Yet we must plainly say that we do not wish his return to India.

45. The *Ratnakar* [Assansol] of the 2nd April draws the Government's attention to an ancient, dilapidated temple in Ichhapur in Raniganj in the Burdwan district, and

An ancient Hindu temple in need of repair.

requests it to repair the temple and to try to

ascertain its past history. The temple contains an image of Mahadeva which is called Bhimeswar.

RATNAKAR,
April 2nd, 1904.

46. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 3rd April severely criticises Government for not appointing a Musalman in

Mr. Amir Ali's successor.

Mr. Amir Ali's place in the Calcutta High Court,

and says that the notion that the British Empire is founded on justice is slowly passing away from men's minds. There is many an able Musalman who is fit to succeed Mr. Amir Ali in the High Court. Besides this, a Musalman is more competent to deal with Muhammadan law than a European. It is not safe either for the rulers or for the ruled that a feeling of distrust should grow up between them. But Lord Curzon is believed to be guided by a policy of division between the rulers and the ruled.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1904.

47. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 4th April is informed that the

The Jaraitala Post-office in the Mymensingh district.

practice of receiving deposits in the Savings Bank of the Jaraitala Post-office in the Mymensingh district will be shortly discontinued. If this is

done, the Jaraitala people will for the purpose of making deposits have to go to the Kishorganj Post-office, a journey of 12 miles by land and two or three times that distance by water.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 4th, 1904.

III.—LEGISLATION.

RANGALAY,
March 27th, 1904.

48. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 27th March writes as follows:—

The Universities Act.

The English have many affectations in connection with their Indian administration. The prostitute who plies her immoral trade to procure food, may save society a world of evils if she will only publicly do so, but she professes love and necessity of being loved and thereby deprives infatuated men of all self-control. In the same way, the English Government is not content to rule India and realise taxes, but it must profess love and necessity of being loved, it must profess pure philanthropy in its administration of the country. This is what grieves us, and this grief finds expression in the Press.

Laws are framed and passed as the authorities would have them. But a few gentlemen who pass for our representatives shout themselves hoarse in their protest against those measures. During the discussion of the Universities Bill in the Council the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, the Hon'ble Dr. Mukhopadhyaya, the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram, and the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Muhammad spoke much and annoyed everybody by protracting the discussion through three sittings of the Council. But the measure was ultimately born in the shape destined for it by the authorities, and the Babus were not able so much as to pare off its nails or shave off its beard. We are told that the measure is born with two fangs, and the fangs that a serpent has at birth contain the deadliest venom—a venom which does not kill at once, but produces mortification of the flesh and kills by inches. Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya acquitted himself very well in this debate. This man has the power of remoulding society, and yet he is not more useful to his society than any ordinary man. So much for the English administration of India!

We will not say more on this point, for there is an old sore in our hearts that pains us when we speak of these things. We have, however, one thing to say to the Viceroy. He has done well in passing the Universities Bill. But he should know that Indians learn English only for the sake of a living and dress and behave like Englishmen with just the same end. But we do not thereby become Englishmen. The Musalmans lived among us and ruled over us for seven hundred years, but they could not affect in the least our innate Hindu feelings. However wise or shrewd our English rulers may be, they will not be able to make Englishmen of us. If the English Government provide for English education in such a shape as will enable us to earn a living, we shall be satisfied. But if it places obstacles in that way, we shall console ourselves with the reflection that this will make the race of Babus less numerous and check to some extent the tide of luxury that has begun to flow through society. In no way or matter shall Englishmen be able to deceive us. We have never been deceived and shall never be deceived. But matters like these will enable the rulers and the ruled to know each other. Familiarity breeds contempt, and that has been the case with us.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 29th, 1904.

49. Referring to the passing of the Universities Bill, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*

The Universities Act.

[Burdwan] of the 29th March says that it is useless and sheer waste of energy to protest against the desires of the authorities. There is a world of difference between the value of public opinion in England and that of public opinion in India. It is a mistake to suppose that Government will consult the wishes and welfare of the people in making laws. It ought to be remembered that the interests of the Indian Empire are not identical with those of the Indian people.

As for the Act itself, it is incomprehensible how it can have the effect of closing the path of high education to the people of the country. On the contrary, if in consequence of the Act, the University turns out a smaller number of graduates every year, it will do a great good to the country. What miserable lives do not most of these graduates lead! Disappointed and discontented, with difficulties pressing them from all sides, they toil like beasts to make the two ends meet. It is not desirable that there should be too many colleges in the country. Men should not be tempted to buy for their sons worthless titles at a high cost. In the present condition of the country the Government should have its eye on everything and its control over an important matter like education.

50. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th March writes as follows:—

The Universities Act.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
March 30th, 1904.

What Lord Curzon principally plumes himself upon is the fact of his being an administrative reformer. He says that an administrative reformer must be prepared to meet with opposition, and that the best way to silence such opposition is to bear firmly all adverse criticism. Lord Curzon has, indeed, shown a signal example of firmness by carrying out his projected University reform in the teeth of universal opposition. We have no doubt whatever of his firmness, but we are afraid that no sensible man will praise the firmness of a fallible human being who carries his point in the face of universal protest.

It is the popular belief that by this measure Lord Curzon has thrown obstacles in the way of high education and thereby provided sure means of checking its spread. He has said himself:—

“The rush of immature striplings to our Indian Universities, not to learn but to earn, would have continued till it became an avalanche ultimately bringing the entire educational fabric down to the ground.”

Lord Curzon is very kind and has saved India from an imminent danger. But the pity is that sensible and educated Indians are unable to appreciate his kindness. It is the popular belief that Government has shut the door of high education probably with a view to deprive the people of the benefit of such education, to prevent their imbibing high notions of English political freedom and their carrying on acrimonious agitation to the annoyance of the authorities. We do not believe that Lord Curzon will obtain credit from anybody for a wise disregard of present criticism in anticipation of future applause. The people of this country will look upon this reform of Lord Curzon's as an outcome of his injurious notions and shall always thank him for it. Future rulers will also lament this narrow-minded policy of Lord Curzon and repudiate his injurious measure. Under long foreign domination began the decline of the education of this country, which was a centre of intellectual enlightenment. But thanks to the efforts of large-hearted English rulers, feeble rays of knowledge still gleamed in the country. But Lord Curzon has now provided for the total extinction of that light.

51. The same paper has the following:—

The Universities Act.

It is really gratifying to find that, as a result of the return of elected members to the Viceregal Legislative Council, theatrical acting may now often be witnessed in the Council Chamber. But the public taste in this country has become so much vitiated that no theatre can now establish a reputation for successful acting if a farce is not added to the play for the entertainment of those who visit it. It was for this reason that our generous-hearted Viceroy introduced an excellent farce in the meeting of the Council when the Universities Bill was passed. The acting of the farce was superb and it afforded infinite merriment to all. We think that the elected members were amply rewarded for all the struggles and sacrifices they had made to get themselves returned to the Council by witnessing the performance. If tickets are sold to visitors, a large profit may be secured in future. We hope Lord Ampthill, when he takes over charge from Lord Curzon, will see his way to give effect to the suggestions made above.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

52. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April writes as follows:—

The Universities Act.

In carrying the Universities Bill through the Supreme Legislation Council, Lord Curzon said to the effect that the authorities never desired to destroy native influence in the Universities. But is it possible for the natives to believe what the authorities say? The late Queen Victoria had promised, in the name of the Almighty, that candidates for employment in the public service would be recruited on the principle of recognition of merit alone, irrespective of considerations of caste, creed or colour. But have not those who are entrusted with the government of India honoured this solemn promise by only breaking it? When the “cesses” were first levied the authorities said that their proceeds would be applied to nothing but famine purposes. But have they kept that promise? There is an old Sanskrit adage, “Put no faith in women

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1904.

and princes." This saying is in many cases borne out by the conduct of our rulers.

Lord Curzon has asked whether, when the number of native members was smaller than at present, affairs were not better managed. We admit they were. But has Lord Curzon ever enquired why it was so? Times were different when English members were not blinded by anti-native feelings and eager to introduce books written by their friends and relatives. Nowadays there is an abundance of text-books, attendance is more cared for than teaching, and the interest of the book-trade is more jealously guarded than that of education. The present deplorable condition is due to all these, and not to an excess in the number of native members. If the Education Department has deteriorated, the result must be attributed to the advent of incompetent European Professors. Mr. Pedler is now the head of the department. He was never educated in any University, nor did he ever acquire any academic distinction. It is rather a wonder that the department, which happens to possess such a man for its head, has not been reduced to a worse condition. Mere cavilling would serve no purpose. Lord Curzon was not able to give a satisfactory reply to any of the arguments raised by Messrs. Gokhale and Sri Ram. What we wanted was reformation and not destruction.

SANJIVANI,
March 31st, 1904.

53. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 31st March writes :—

The Co-operative Credit Societies
Act.

The object of the measure is indeed noble, but we do not think that that object will be attained by the provisions of the Act as passed by the Council. The framers of the Act were under the impression that the Indian agriculturists had money in their hands. But this is a delusion. The authorities assume that the cultivators can read and write so as to be able to carry on the business of the societies satisfactorily. But the fact is that most of the cultivators are penniless and illiterate, and will therefore be unable to do the work expected of them. They are, moreover, not over-anxious to help each other. Under the circumstances, co-operative credit societies can never be established all over India. That in a country where money-lenders find people willing enough to pay interest at one anna per rupee per month, poor people would purchase shares in the proposed credit societies without trying to make money by charging interest at that rate, must be an impossible supposition. Government could have conferred an inestimable boon upon poor cultivators by passing a law enabling them to borrow money at a small rate of interest. This the Government has not done, consequently there is no hope for the improvement of the condition of the cultivators. If the District Magistrate tries to induce them to join co-operative credit societies, a few among them, through fear or a desire to please him, may come forward to join such societies. But societies so formed cannot be expected to stand for any considerable period.

Government has a surplus of four crores of rupees this year. Out of this large sum, one crore might easily be devoted to establishing at least 10,000 credit societies, so that cultivators might get loans at monthly interest of eight annas. This would have gone a great way towards alleviating the miseries of the people. But instead of this, Government has made grants for the improvement of the Museum and for other equally unimportant objects.

SANJIVANI,

54. The same paper writes that a Bill to amend the Local Self-Government

The Local Self-Government Act
Amendment Bill.

Act of 1885 was introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council last Saturday. But Government had given no previous indication of the changes that were proposed to be made in the Act. It was proposed in the Council that District Boards should be empowered to levy a tax on the people for the establishment of veterinary schools and for railways and tramways. It is well known how the proceeds of the road cess and the public works cess have been misapplied by the Magistrate-Chairmen of District Boards. A new engine of oppression is going to be placed in the hands of the District Boards, and yet the people have been allowed to know nothing about the matter. Each of the three matters mentioned above is pre-eminently one for the Government to undertake, but it is trying to shift its own burden on to the shoulders of the people. Although protests are useless

and Government will carry out what it has determined upon, yet the people should strongly oppose the proposal, if only from a sense of duty.

55. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st April says that some of the provisions of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill are alarming. The proposal of raising taxes will be universally protested against. The District Boards will be empowered to levy taxes for helping veterinary institutions. Thus it has been proposed to make the Boards instruments of extortion. It is, however, hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will not be deaf to arguments against the Bill.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1904.

The Bengal Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

56. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 1st April contains a violent and vulgar attack by a Musalman correspondent on the writer of a story headed "A Forged Note," which is being published in the *Sanjivani*, the author's offence being that he has described Sirajuddowla as employing agents to procure for him the beautiful daughter of an eminent Hindu nobleman.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 1st, 1904.

An attack on the writer of a story published in the *Sanjivani*.

57. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April observes that Mr. Morison in his speech on the Universities Bill justly said that the zamindars spend large sums of money in pleasing the local Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners, and that, instead of doing that, they ought to devote the money to the improvement of education. But Lord Curzon, before whom Mr. Morison gave utterance to those expressions, is a notorious *tamasha* lover. It is he who wasted and made others waste a large sum of money on the Delhi Darbar. His subordinates will, of course, follow his example. When such is the case with the biggest officials in India, who is to prevent the subordinates from indulging in sports and entertainments?

BHARAT MITRA,
April 2nd, 1904.

58. From the annual report of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals it appears, says the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April, that there has been a marked increase in the number of cases in which carters and cabmen are prosecuted for cruel treatment of their animals, and that the authorities do nothing to cope with the evil. Persons who are found guilty of such cruelty ought to meet with exemplary punishments.

HITAVARTA,
3rd April, 1904.

Cruelty to animals.

59. The same paper says that during his tenure of office Lord Curzon has deprived the natives of their liberty in many respects by passing some new Acts. He has sent the Tibet Mission at a large cost. If the Mission is opposed by the Russians, there is no knowing what will be its fate. There is no denying that Lord Curzon is a very able statesman, but the writer is sorry to say that he has spent his whole energy in dispossessing the educated Indians of their freedom of thought. The Indians had hoped that he would do something to remove their misery, but that has proved to be a hope against hope. They now wish that His Excellency may not return to India. May God grant him a long life, and may he become the Premier of England, but it is to be hoped that he will not return to India as Viceroy.

HITAVARTA.

Lord Curzon.

60. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April has the following:— It is not true that the European is in all cases stronger than the Indian, nor can it be said that the European, when he happens to be the stronger man, is entitled to make use of brute force. When a case of collision between a European and an Indian comes before a law Court the European Judge, and the European jury generally give perverted verdicts, and inflict severe punishments upon Indians, who find to their cost that it was sheer folly on their part to go to the law Courts for justice.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1904.

Relations between Europeans and Indians.

Many persons who have had ample opportunities of witnessing such cases, have come to the conclusion that so long as Indians do not take the law into their own hands and return blow for blow in utter disregard of the prospects of imprisonment, there can be no hope of an effectual remedy for this malady. Surely it would be a great misfortune if nothing short of such a treatment

could bring those Europeans to their senses whose undue partiality for their own countrymen is at the root of all this mischief and whose unfair conduct is sowing the seeds of dissatisfaction in the country. Every official and every European ought to bear in mind that, if once the impression strikes root into the minds of the people that in case of a failure of justice it would be much better for them to take the law into their own hands than to go to the Court for redress, the consequences would be really very serious. There is a limit to the patience of man, and even the meanest worm, if repeatedly trampled upon, would turn and inflict a sting upon the foe.

Cases of intentional injury are not infrequent, not to speak of accidents. It is impossible to make a list of persons killed or wounded owing to their being mistaken for birds or beasts, or of cases in which people charged with killing Indians have pleaded insanity, drunkenness, excitement, fear, etc., in extenuation of their conduct. Again, do all the European offenders who are convicted actually undergo even the light punishment that is inflicted by the Courts? The European soldiers who murdered Dr. Sures Chandra at Barrackpur got light punishment. The Judge himself said so. May we enquire whether the culprits had to suffer even this admittedly light punishment? Were they not secretly pardoned by the Government? We demand a reply to this question, as many persons want to know what really happened in this connection.

Our conduct should be regulated by the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Whenever we come to learn that an Indian has given a thrashing to a European the news pleases us. Now, as in such cases it is quite out of the question to expect justice from the European Judge and the European jury, undoubtedly the best course is to administer a sound thrashing to the offender. What else can we say?

The following incident occurred a few months ago and we give publicity to it, as we think it necessary to do so. Raghunath Singh was the servant of a *thikadar* at a place near the Simultola station on the East Indian Railway. One day, while Raghunath was away, his daughter was for nothing beaten with a cane by a Eurasian platelayer. When Raghunath heard this he was mad with rage, and with his own shoes dealt so severe blows on the platelayer that the latter fled for his life. No case was brought against the man. The *sahab* simply threatened to beat the man and also to shoot him, and the matter ended there.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 9th April, 1904.